

## Notes for ***Bodhisattva and Kangaroo*** by Anne Lord

The opportunity to work in a studio in Beijing followed the artist's study of Chinese culture and language in Australia. The images leading to ***Bodhisattva and Kangaroo*** were started in Beijing and responded to the artist thinking about an Australian identity in such a large country. The Australian landscape and environment are crucial to the artist and images of these were taken to China. However in China the human and their sense of spiritual became more important.

'The Bodhisattva is the compassionate being who intervenes for the human and reminded me of the saints in Western culture, so the Kangaroo and Bodhisattva encompass the realm of exchange and potential engagement beyond the capacity of the human. They could discuss the global issues such as drought and environmental catastrophe.'

Anne Lord

Visual Artist Lecturer James Cook University and PhD Candidate JCU

This is an extract from the catalogue *Absence* but the above may be sufficient.

AL. The realization that *Absence* could be a concept was due to having just lost my Father and going to China at the same time...going and having to go back....in the midst of all of this, I was really conscious of our spirituality in Australia and my family's spirituality and how we look at the afterlife. Before any of this happened, I had already decided that I wanted to look at Buddhist sculptures in China. In Beijing I went to the Confucian Temple and places like that...The Lama Temples in a large garden complex have the most beautiful sculptures but many you can't photograph. I wanted to create work about absence and then going west of Beijing to look at the caves where Buddha images are eroding, I think all the ideas began to gel about how my other ideas relating to disintegration, could be used again if I referenced erosion and disintegration in terms of this new perspective I was developing about spirituality.

2006 another note

Following this time in China I read more about Buddhist philosophy and realised that the Buddhist philosophy encompasses and links spiritual health and environmental health.